



# DON'T THROW IT AWAY: Compost Every Day!



There's no one right way to compost. You can try one of these commercial compost approaches or make your own!



Rotary Tumbler



Closed Bin



Open Bin

## IT'S EASY!

COMPOSTING – along with saving energy, conserving water, and reducing fossil fuel use – is one of the most earth-friendly things you can do. It's an excellent material to use to enrich houseplant and garden soil, and a good way to recycle kitchen wastes and reduce garbage sent to landfills.

## HERE'S ALL YOU NEED

**BROWNS:** Provide carbon.

Dead leaves, branches, twigs, paper rolls, clean paper

**GREENS:** Provide nitrogen.

Grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps, coffee grounds

**WATER:** Provides moisture to get things going!



## DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS:

Dairy products, fats, meats, bones, pet waste, yard clippings or waste that has been treated with pesticides, black walnut leaves or twigs

## BUILD YOUR OWN COMPOST PILE:

- 1) Select a dry, shady spot near a water source for your compost pile or bin.
- 2) Add your brown and green materials as you collect them, making sure larger pieces are chopped or shredded.
- 3) Moisten dry materials as they are added.
- 4) Ideally, your compost pile should have an equal amount of carbon and nitrogen (browns to greens) and alternate layers of organic materials of different-size particles.
- 5) Once your compost pile is established, mix grass clippings and green waste into the pile and bury fruit and vegetable waste under 10 inches of compost material.

***When the material at the bottom is dark and rich in color, your compost is ready to use!***

## Composting facts:

- Yard waste and food scraps make up 20 to 30% of garbage!
- Landfills are filling up, no longer accepting waste and/or closing.
- Creating your own compost helps the environment and saves you money!
- By using your compost material you return nutrients to your garden that would have been lost - and it's free!
- Composting can extend the growing season of plants.
- Composting is one of the easiest ways to recycle and we can all do it!



## For more information see:

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/smallscalecomposting.htm>

[www.compostinfo.com/Default.htm](http://www.compostinfo.com/Default.htm)

<http://journeytoforever.org/compost.html> (English and Spanish)

[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

[www.epa.gov/composting](http://www.epa.gov/composting)

[www.usbg.gov](http://www.usbg.gov)

[www.sustainablesites.org](http://www.sustainablesites.org)



WE HAVE THE

**POWER TO SAVE  
RESOURCES**



For more information:

<http://capitol.aoc.gov/powertosave/>  
<http://www.aoc.gov/powertosave/>